

66 and the other engaging the clamp cleats 48 on the truck clamp surface 46 of the side rails 14. The clamp cleats 48 provide a roughened surface for the attachment clamp 50 to engage ensuring a secure attachment of the present invention and the tonneau cover 12 to the pickup truck box 66.

The longer portion of the L-shape of the side rails 14 forms the side rail component mount surfaces 44 to which the mounting apparatus for the tensioning rail 16 and the tensioning screw 18 are attached. Additionally, each of the side rails 14 also have an upwardly oriented diagonal surface 52 which serves as both the outward cosmetic edge of the side rails 14 and as guides or frames within which the tonneau cover 12 is stretched. Additionally, the tensioning rail 16 is also equipped with two tensioning rail end caps 54 which fit over each end of the tensioning rail 16 just inside of the side rail diagonal surface.

The method of operation of the tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus 10 is further illustrated in FIGS. 6 and 7. To reduce the tension or loosen the tonneau cover 56 for either its removal or installation, the user rotates the screw adjustment knob 20 in a clockwise manner which serves to pull the tensioning rail 16 back through the tensioning screw 18 and the tensioning rail attachment block 30 (the loosening movement accomplished by this operation is illustrated by the directional arrows labeled as 60). Conversely, to obtain a tensioned or taught tonneau cover 58, when latched one simply reverses this process by rotating the screw adjustment knob 20 in a counter-clockwise manner which serves to force the tensioning rail 16 forward through the tensioning screw 18 and tensioning rail attachment block 30 (the tensioning movement accomplished by this operation is illustrated by the directional arrows labeled as 62).

Although the present invention has been described in considerable detail with reference to certain preferred versions thereof, other versions are possible. Therefore, the spirit and scope of the appended claims should not be limited to the description of the preferred versions contained herein.

What is claimed is:

1. An adjustable assembly for a cargo box cover for use on a cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box, the cargo box cover having a left and right rail connected to said left and right side wall, an elongate tensioning rail having a left and right end said tensioning rail extending from said left rail to said right rail and further having a cover fixedly attached along said tensioning rail, said adjustable assembly comprising:

a left and right block means connected to said left and right rail;
a left and right attachment block means connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail; and
an adjustable connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to said left and right rail.

2. An adjustable assembly as in claim 1 wherein each of said left and right block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a front and rear block section connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block section across said space between said front and rear block sections.

3. An adjustable assembly as in claim 2 wherein each of said left and right attachment block means comprises an attachment block section having an elongate threaded tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning said space between said front and rear block section.

4. An adjustable assembly as in claim 3 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block section defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.

5. An adjustable assembly as in claim 4 further comprising a graduated measuring scale on said left and right rail so as to accurately adjust said left and right side of said tensioning rail in respect to said left and right rail.

Sub E14 6. An adjustable assembly as in claim 5 wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

7. An adjustable assembly as in claim 1 wherein said left and right block means is fixedly connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail and said left and right attachment block means is fixedly connected to said left and right rail.

8. An adjustable cover for a cargo box that comprises upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box, the adjustable cover assembly comprising:

a left and right rail connected to said left and right side wall;
an elongate tensioning rail having a left and right end said tensioning rail extending from said left rail to said right rail;
a left and right block means connected to said left and right rail;
a left and right attachment block means connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail; and
an adjustable connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to said left and right rail.

9. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 8 wherein each of said left and right block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a front and rear block section connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block section across said space between said front and rear block sections.

10. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 9 wherein each of said left and right attachment block means comprises an attachment block section having an elongate threaded tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning said space between said front and rear block sections.

11. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 10 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block section defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.

12. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 11 further comprising a graduated measuring scale on said left and right rail so as to accurately adjust said left and right side of said tensioning rail in respect to said left and right rail.

Sub E13 13. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 12 wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

14. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 8 wherein said left and right block means is fixedly connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail, and said left and right attachment block means is fixedly connected to said left and right rail.

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